



Agenda
#4

TOWN OF ACTON
472 Main Street
Acton, Massachusetts, 01720
Telephone (978) 264-9612
Fax (978) 264-9630

Walter M. Foster, Chairman
Board of Selectmen

February 26, 2004

Sent on 2/26/04

Ms. Jo-Ann Berry, Chairman
Acton Boxborough Regional School Committee
Charter Road
Acton, MA 01720

Dear Chairman Berry:

The Board of Selectmen understand that the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee and its administrative staff are diligently working to obtain a variance from the Department of Revenue concerning the debt exclusion amounts to be certified for Fiscal Year 2004 and fully support such an effort having passed a resolution to that effect in December. In recognition of the difficulty of obtaining such a variance, on February 23, 2004, the Board of Selectmen voted to continue the Classification Public Hearing again until March 8, 2004.

The Town's Tax program, as with all Mass. property tax programs, are programmed to convert the first two preliminary tax bill payments into a final bill calculation in December of each year. Due to the Region's issue with DOR, we are required to rewrite the computer code of our Tax Program. Concluding the Tax Classification Hearing on March 8 is the absolute latest possible date to conclude this portion of the tax setting process for FY04. Postponement of the Hearing Process places a significant burden upon our Finance Department staff to determine if there are any unintended consequences of the required reprogramming, and we would request that your staff understand such a burden will negatively affect Finance staff's ability to respond to other issues until the tax bills are mailed on April 1.

In order to complete the Tax Classification process the Acton Boxborough Regional School District Treasurer must certify in writing to the Board of Assessors of the Town of Acton the following items by March 5, 2004:

1. All amounts contained in the certification are in full compliance with the Massachusetts Law and all rules and regulations of the Department of Revenue.
2. If a variance is obtained from DOR a written copy of that variance
3. A reconciliation of the total amount of debt exclusions, inclusive of projections, certified to the Town for FY '02 tax setting process and the actual amounts incurred.
4. A reconciliation of the total amount of debt exclusions, inclusive of projections, certified to the Town for FY '03 tax setting process and the actual amounts incurred.
5. The total amount of debt exclusions, inclusive of projections and adjustments from prior years to be placed on the FY '04 Tax Recap.

If the variance is denied and/or the above mentioned reconciliations negatively affect the Town's ability to exclude the full amount of the Region's "Capital Debt Service" as listed in the FY '04 A-B Regional School District Assessment, the Selectmen will need a revised Regional Assessment voted by the Regional School Committee by March 5, 2004 in order to complete the Classification Hearing on March 8 and set the tax rate.

If denial of the variance and/or the above mentioned reconciliations requires an adjustment to the Region's FY' 05 budget target, the Board of Selectmen would appreciate notice of that adjustment at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

File Copy

Walter M. Foster, Chairman
Acton Board of Selectmen

Cc: Terry Lindgren, Chairman, APS